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CORRESPONDENCE OF GENERAL EDWARD HAND, OF THE CONTINENTAL LINE, 1779–1781.

[Originals in the Manuscript Department, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

MINISINK 5TH APRIL 1779.

SIR :—

Agreable to the Orders you Yesterday rec'd you will proceed to Wyoming on the Susquehannah River with the Regiment under your Immediate Command, Colonel Armands, & Capt^n Schotts Corps, the former is commanded at present by a Major Lomaign and the latter by Capt^n Selin, these Corps will join you at or before you retch Col. Strouds at Fort Penn, as you will see by their Orders left open for your perrusal. & which you will have delivered— you must take with you from here all the flour now left in store and Beef sufficient to carry the Detachment thro' to Wyoming, you will receive additional supply of Flour at Col. Strouds, take care that each Corps takes with them the Provisions they have respectively drawn, you will receive a few Camp Kettles for the Detachment at Colonel Stroud's and may draw 20 Axes for your Regiment, 6 for Armands, & 3 for Schott here. It will take you four days from Col. Strouds to Wyoming, you will therefore regulate your Provision accordingly. Capt. Alex^r Patterson A.D.QMG will Provide you with a guide from Fort Penn, and an Express to send to Col. Zebulon Butler commanding at Wyoming with notice of your approach from Fort Penn you will march to Lardners thence to an Incamping Place in what is Commonly cal'd the great Swamp, the third day to Bullocks which is within five miles of Wyoming Garrison where for the present you will put yourself under Col. Butlers directions.

I am thus Particular as It will be necessary to make easie Marches in order to reconnoitre the Country well, &

examine every thicket & hhollow way or Swamp before you enter it, which I desire you may be very Particular in doing, to prevent being Surprised, led into an Ambuscade, or attack'd without previous knowledge of the Enemys being near, you will be particularly Attentive to keep the Body of the Troops Compact, Suffer no stragler on Any account, keep a proper advance & Rear Guard, tho' not at too great a distance, and also small parties on your Flanks observing the same Caution. Should any Enemy appear. you must take care not to advance on them precipitately before you know their numbers, or untill you have sufficiently extended your front to prevent being out Flanked, by a Steddy adherence to the Above directions you will have little danger to apprehend, double your attention as you approach the Fort, as the badness of the Roads at present & the Scarcity of horses will prevent your carrying your heavy Baggage, you must leave it at Fort Penn with a Guard untill you have a more favourable opportunity.

Relying much on your Steddyness, Industry Zeal & Activity. I wish you a good March,

& am sir

Your Obed^{t} Servt.

Major Danl. Burehardt
German Reg^{t}

Edw^{d} Hand.

Minisink 5th April 1779

D^{r} Sir:—

By the time this reaches you, there will be a Detachment from this place consisting of about 550 men including Officers, under the command of Major Burehardt of the German Reg^{t} on their March to join you be pleased to make the best preperation in your power to cover them on their Arrival, and send a person to meet and conduct Major Burehardt, and give him any Intilligence that may respect his March, he goes by the way of Strouds, least he should be stoped by Walenpapack, as there is not a Boat there. I have rec^{d} your favours of the 28th Ultimo of first Inst.

I am sorry for the devistation committed by the Enemy. Lt. Jenkens is gone to head Qrs. where I shall goe as soon as Major Burehardts Detach^{t} is fairly on the March, and expect to be soon with you, untill then, you will please to give the Necessary Orders.

I am D^{r} Sir
Y^{r} Ob^{t} Hhble Serv^{t}
Col: ZEBULON BUTLER. EDW. HAND.

DEAR GENERAL,

Just this moment a party of Indians on the opposite side of the River from us kill'd a family of people who lived about one mile from this, but unknown to me, & burnd the House I immediately sent a party after them, they found tho' dead lying scalp'd two men, one woman & 2 Children, from their tracts it is thot there is Better than 30 of them & we are not able to send a sufficient party after them, if some men where to come from Wyoming on that side the River with a good guide they might be met with, the way the tracts went, makes me believe the intend making a Stroke on Cattawissey. I have sent a Runner to give them intelligence as a number of Inhabitants live there, they have taken some Horses from this family. I believe the saw the Guard that left us this morning with the Boats, as it was soon after that they done the Mischief.

I wish we were strong enough to send out a strong party, I would fain think I could intercept them in their marches.

I am sir
With due Respect
Your Very Humb^{l} Servt.
GEO BUSH.

FORT JENKENS
May 17–1779
11 o'clock A.M.
To Brigadeer Gen^{l} Edw^{d} HAND
Commanding in Susquehanna.

DEAR SIR:—

I am favor'd with your second Letter of this date.

Be assured Sir there is nothing I more earnestly wish for than a friendly intercourse with every officer in the Army I have the Honor to serve in, yet I cannot submit to indignities from Col° Lutterloh or any other person. I have as often as any officer in the Service put up with inconveniences when necessary, and mean to do so still. I believe you misapprehend the Spirit of the order of the 28th it does not in my opinion authorize Col° Lutterloh's depriving me of what I am justly entitled to, especially as he has pasturage elsewhere equally near your Quarters, for instance Mr. Beekman's Large Pasture.

Your Obed^{t} Serv^{t}

CAMP June 30—1781. E. HAND.

To Colo. PICKERING Q. M. G.

CAMP NEAR YORK 24th Oct. 1781

SIR:—

I am ordered by his Ex^{y} to inform you that it is his Pleasure you immediately proceed to Gloucester with your Regiment, where, when arrived you are to take the Command. He expects you will pay particular attention to the Establishment of Good order and discipline at that Post and that you give every possible assistance to the Officers of the Several staff Departments at Gloucester in Collecting and removing their Stores.

I am Sir

Y^{r} Ob^{t} Hble Serv^{t}

Colo. J. OLNEY E. HAND Ad. Gen^{l}

Command Rho. Isl^{d} Reg^{t}

CAMP June 30th 1781

D^{r} SIR:—

I am just favoured by the rec^{t} of your note of this date, don't wish to be possessed of any article that I am not

entitled to, or more than I want, as Brigad^{r} I am entitled to a Marque, there must also be one to Issue Orders as I look upon it also that the Gentlemen of the Office should have one to cover them, but if that be not the case, any person better entitled to one shall have it.

There is no person in the Army has more use for their horses, or wants them nearer hand than myself, the pasture I now have is convenient & no more than I want, no person shall occupy it except by order of the Commander in Chief, it would not be more than compliance to have informed me previous to freeing my Guard.

Y^{r} Hble Serv^{t}

Colo PICKERING
Q^{r} M^{s} Genl.

EDW. HAND A. G.

At a Meeting of sundry Officers of the late Penn^{a} Line held at the City Tavern in Philad^{a} the 24th of April 1784 pursuent to Public notice given Colonel Francis Johnston in the Chair.

Whereas the United States in Congress assembled did on the 3rd day of Nov.^{r} 1783 Resolve "That the Pay Master General deposit in the hands of the Regimental Agents the Certificates for the arrears of pay due to the Officers and Soldiers of the respective Lines to be by them delivered to the individuals to whom they belong, or deposited for their benefit as the Supreme Executive Power of the State to which the respective Agents belong shall direct."

And Whereas in the present dispersed state of the late Pennsylvania Line it is found impracticable to appoint Regimental Agents as directed by the above Resolution Nevertheless it being absolutely necessary to appoint some person or persons to receive from the Pay Master General the Certificates of pay Ac^{a} due to the said Line and distribute or deposit the same agreeably to the said Resolve I do therefore hereby Certify that Major Thomas B. Bowen and Captain Ercurius Beatty are unanimously elected

Agents for the purposes aforesaid: And that it is the desire of the said Meeting of Officers that the said agents do wait on the Supreme Executive Council as well for their confirmation of the said appointment as for their directions concerning the Execution of the Trust reposed in them.

Given under my hand this 24th day of April 1784.

FRANCIS JOHNSTON.

Letter of CHAS. STEWART Esqr to
the Noble Major Genl. SULLIVAN
dated EASTON 3d June 1779.

SIR :—

As it may be possible I cant accompany you from Wyoming to Tioga, I thought by giving you in writing wat Places are propper for Encampmts on your March might be of some use. They are as follows Vizt. from—Wyoming to the mouth of Lahawanack is good Road Both sides of the River but best on the west side, opposite the mouth of Lahawanack is a pretty Island for the Boatmen & Cannoes to lay very Safe at, at this Place you will I think Encamp the first night.

The second days march will be over a mountain And your Ground for Encampment will be at a place cal'd Quilutimack, where you will find an old Indian field & Good Water & the Ruins of a settlement made by our People.

The next day will with great ease carry you to Tankhanack where you will find plenty of good Grass, a fine stream of water & good ground to Encamp on, with open Woods North side of the Creek.

The next day if possible I would get as far as the place on which one Frederick Vanderlip lately dwelt here you will find Good Ground to Encamp on & Good Water—but if you cant get so far you will stop at the mouth of Mashapen, which is not a very good place as it is Scarce of Grass.

The next day will bring you to Wyaloosing and this days march will require particular attention as the Ground is

favorable for the Enemy to contend, between Vanderlips & the mouth of Tuscarora Creek is a remarkable ridge of Hills & a very narrow Pass, at Tuscarora Creek the Country opens, & caution will be necessary in ascending the Hill between Tuscarora Hill & Wyaloosing.

I think it Probable you will Halt at Wyaloosing one day or two, and that your first days march from there will carry you to a place Called Weesangtring or Rush meadow Creek here you will find plenty of Good food & Good Water & open Ground to encamp on.

The next day will bring you to Towandani where you will find plenty of Good Grass & Good Ground.

The next day will bring you to Sheshequenung a place of Plenty & safe Encampment, after you cross the River but Crossing will require a little Attention.

From Sheshequenung to Tioga is in part good & part Bad ground to march over there is a Hill on the way but at Queen Esters palace at Tioga you will find a long body of Cleared bottom & Grass in Abundance.

Col. Zebulon Butler of Regg's Reg^{t} will be a proper person to give you information of the Grounds over which you are to march, there is a New England Lad named Sam^{l} Gray at Brinker's Mills that knows that Country very well & will readily go with you I believe you will find him a Trusty fellow

I am & c^{a}

A Description of the Road from Weyoming to Wyelusing and the distance from one Stage to another.

From Weyoming to Lackawaney ten miles the road tollerable good passable for any kind of Carriages from thence to Gardners 3 miles the road good except one mile where the road goes between the End of a Mountain and the River but passable for pack-horses when the river is low from thence to Wyelutimunk 4 miles the road good. Except one mile where the road goes between the end of a Moun-

tain and the River but passable at all seasons of the year from thence to Tankamack 10 miles the road tollerable good from thence to Merhoping 12 miles the road tollerable good except one bad mile about 3 miles from Tankamcock where the road leaves the river from thence to Vanderlisst 4 miles the road good from thence to Depews 3 Miles the road good except half a mile where the road goes between the end of a Mountain the River which is passable at all seasons of the Year from thence to Wychwink 7 miles the road good. The whole distance 53 Miles.